

Commonwealth of Massachusetts

Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs
Department and Environmental Protection

An Integrated Hazard Mitigation and Climate Adaptation Plan for the Commonwealth



Overview

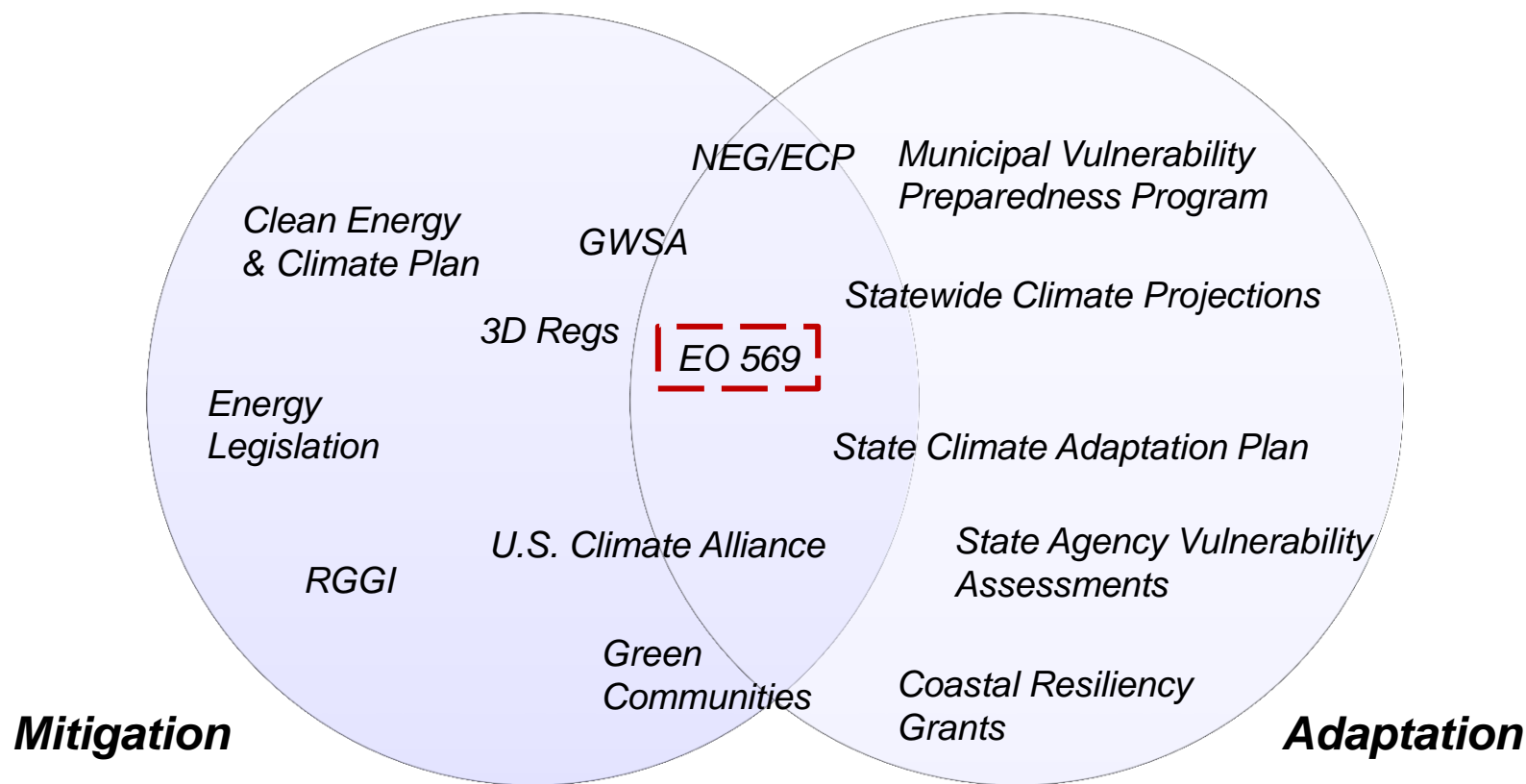
1. Executive Order 569: the Vision of an Integrated Climate Strategy
2. Statewide Hazard Mitigation and Climate Adaptation Plan
3. Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness (MVP) Program





Goals – to Mitigate and Adapt

Lead the nation in reducing greenhouse gas emissions and safeguarding our Commonwealth from the impacts of climate change through citizen engagement, science, and cost-effective policy.





Executive Order 569: An integrated Climate Change Strategy for the Commonwealth

- Signed September 16, 2016
- Recognized significant impacts in Commonwealth
- Envisions a comprehensive approach to reducing greenhouse gas emissions and planning for effects of climate change
- Adapt: Protect life, property, natural resources and our economy from the impacts of climate change
 - Build on State Adaptation Plan (2011)
 - Perform Agency Vulnerability Assessments
 - Build Municipal Support & Capacity
 - Agency Climate Coordinators
 - Mainstream climate work





Massachusetts State Hazard Mitigation and Climate Adaptation Plan

- www.resilientma.com
- **Integrated Plan:** First in the nation Climate Adaptation and Hazard Mitigation plan. Adopted 9/17/18. Approved by FEMA.
- **Mainstreaming climate change:** Incorporating climate change into current planning, budgeting, and policy frameworks of Massachusetts.



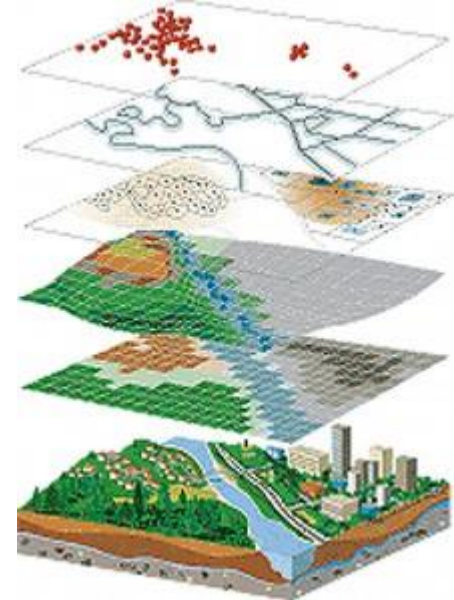
Integrated State Plan Released! (www.resilientma.com)

Plan includes:

- **Hazard Mitigation Plan elements for FEMA Federal Disaster Mitigation Funding**
- **Added Elements:**
 - **Climate Change Projections for Massachusetts**
 - **Agency Vulnerability Assessments (80 agencies)**
 - **Risks and Vulnerabilities of the Commonwealth - by Types of Hazards**
 - **Current Adaptive Capacity**
- **Municipal Vulnerability Assessment:** Using the Community Resilience Building Workshop framework.
- **Mainstreaming climate change:** Throughout planning, focus is on utilizing staff and resources that already exist and incorporating climate change into current planning, budgeting, and policy frameworks

Adaptation Highlight: Climate Data

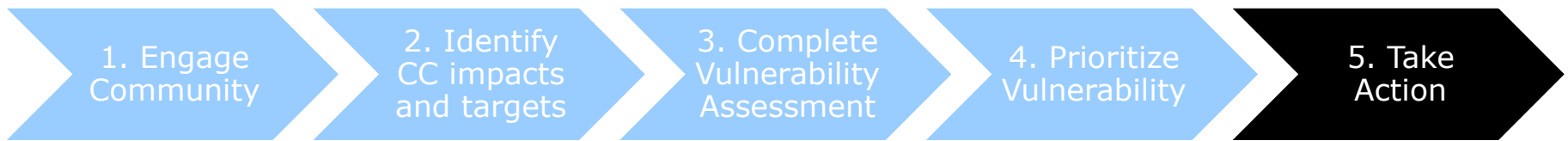
- **Climate science to inform state and municipal planning**
 - Partnership with Northeast Climate Science Center to produce statewide coverage of localized climate data
 - Peer reviewed and stakeholder vetted
 - Climate data forms the basis for understanding vulnerability and risk in state plan, and MVP process, and will be open access to any user across the state
- **Science-based tools to understand risk**
 - Vulnerability assessments combine climate exposure, asset sensitivity, and adaptive capacity to identify vulnerability factors and adaptation solutions
 - Mass Climate Change Clearinghouse will allow climate data to be overlaid with other spatial and non-spatial datasets to map vulnerability of critical infrastructure, natural resources, and vulnerable populations





1. Provides climate data
2. Provides geospatial data at the town level
3. Runs vulnerability assessment
4. Connects to adaptation actions and grant opportunities
5. Specifically designed for cities and towns

MA CLIMATE CHANGE CLEARINGHOUSE





MA CCC

Massachusetts Climate Change Clearinghouse

Explore
Sectors

Identify
Changes

Take
Action

Maps

Data

Documents

Search for resources...

QSearch

Providing the most up-to-date climate change science and decision-support tools for the Commonwealth. [More »](#)

Climate Planning

Massachusetts has long recognized the importance of planning to reduce emissions, tracking the success of policies and programs, and adapting to the ongoing impacts of climate

Explore Sectors »



Agriculture



Coastal Zones



Economy



Energy



Forestry



Infrastructure



Local Government



Natural Resources /
Habitats



Public Health



Public Safety /
Emergency
Response



Recreation



Water Resources

Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness Program

Empowering Communities & Informing Statewide Action



- **Community-led process**
- **Accessibility**
- **Partnerships** and leveraging existing efforts
- **Communities** as local innovators
- **Mainstream** climate change into existing plans
- **Frame** coordinated statewide efforts.

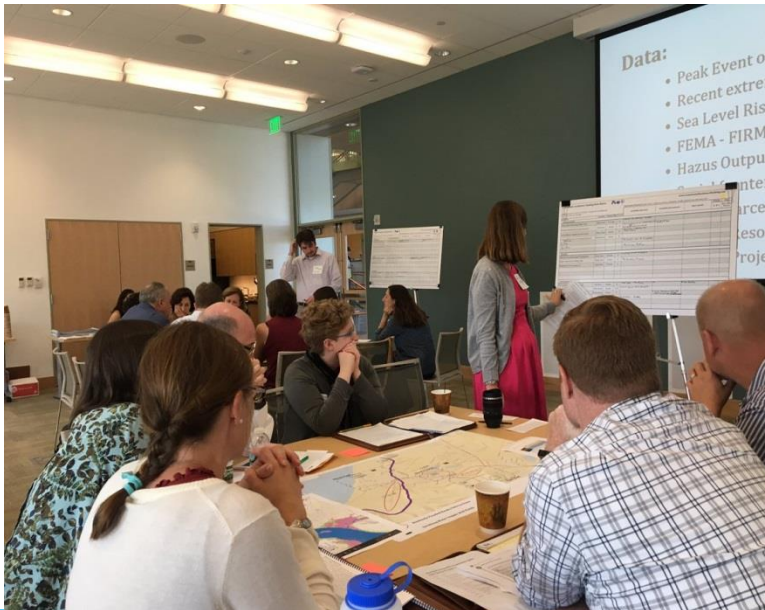
1. Engage
Community

2. Identify CC
impacts and
hazards

3. Complete
Assessment of
Vulnerabilities
& Strengths

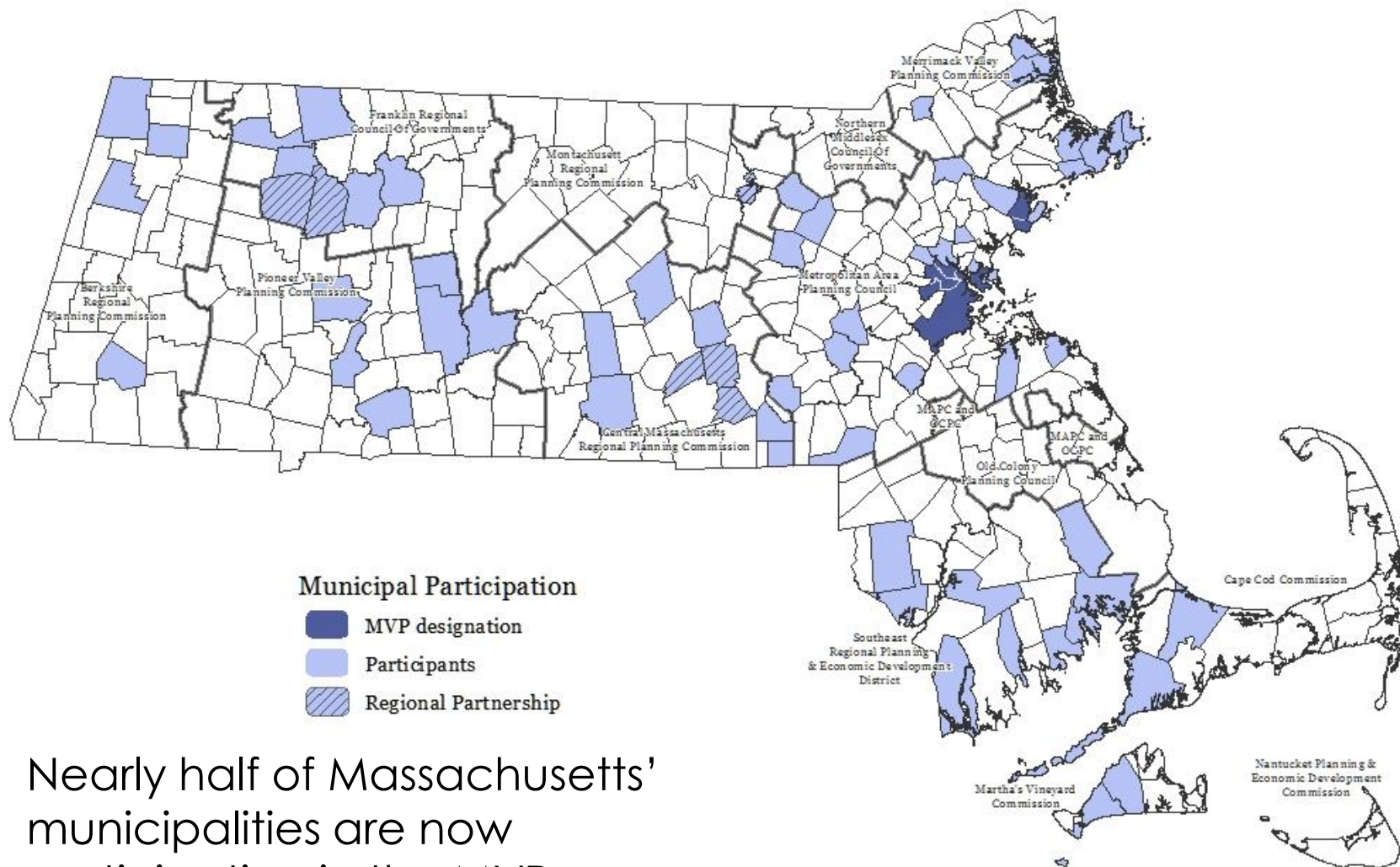
4. Develop &
Prioritize
Actions

5. Take Action





Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness (MVP) Program 2017-2018



Nearly half of Massachusetts' municipalities are now participating in the MVP program



What's Next for the MVP Program?

- **Increase capacity of municipalities and providers:** With MVP Program workshops and Action Grants
- **Mobilize:** local knowledge, climate change data and existing plans to identify vulnerabilities and strengths and prioritize action steps
- **Incentivize:** Designated communities will receive advanced standing in EEA grant programs
- **Mainstream:** Incorporate climate change into existing municipal planning frameworks
- **National Model:** The Nature Conservancy is looking to MVP as a national model and EEA is sharing through U.S. Climate Alliance



State Agency Aspirations and Next Steps

- **Increase understanding of our own agency's vulnerability:** Inventory agency assets, and their vulnerabilities
- **Identify adaptation options for MassDEP's assets:** Build on existing work and plans to identify options to meet vulnerabilities, as well as strengths and prioritize action steps
- **Embed action plan steps into agency's mission and work:** Incorporate results from vulnerability assessments and action plans into mission, policies and ongoing work of the agency

MassDEP will continue working on...

- GHG Mitigation Work (near term emphasis on transportation) to meet goals
- Implementation of the State Climate Adaptation Plan
- Programmatic technical assistance for Municipalities (for mitigation and adaptation)



Questions?

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Grateful Credit to:

Kathleen Theoharides, Assistant Secretary of Climate Change

Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs

Thank you!

